

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OSD/DDR AND E:CDEJONGE

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH

OSD/ISA:JMILLER

EUR/RPM:PCOLLINS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: TENTATIVE ITEM VII-D ON CNAD AGENDA

REF: A) USNATO 5136, B) STATE 231954

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES ANSWERS TO CONCERNS RAISED IN
PARA 1.A) OF REF A.

2. ANSWER TO QUESTION PARA 1(A)(1): THE UNITED STATES IS
COMMITTED TO THE 5.56MM M-16 AT LEAST UNTIL THE MID-1980'S
AND PROBABLY BEYOND. THE SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPON SYSTEM
(SAWS) WILL BE EITHER 5.56MM OR 7.62MM. A COMMON CALIBER
IS DESIRED FOR THE INFANTRY SQUAD. THERE IS ONLY MINIMAL
FUNDING AND EFFORT IN 4.32MM AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES
CONTINUING TECHNOLOGY INVESTIGATIONS.

3. ANSWER TO QUESTION PARA 1(A)(2): SEE ANSWER IN PARA 2
ABOVE. THE U.S. MAY ENTER AN M-16 OR PRODUCT IMPROVED
VERSION THEREOF WITH AN IMPROVED ROUND AT 5.56MM AMMUNITION
INTO THE NATO TRIALS. THE U.S. WILL EVALUATE THE RESULTS
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OF THE NATO TRIALS TO DETERMINE IF ITS POSITION SHOULD BE

MODIFIED.

4. ANSWER TO QUESTION PARA 1(A)(3): IF THE UNITED STATES ENTERS ITS SAWS INTO THE NATO SMALL ARMS EVALUATIONS IT WILL BE EITHER 5.56MM OR 7.62MM. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REQUEST CHANGES IN THE NATO TEST AND EVALUATION SCHEDULE.

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